

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00929 281654Z
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SUBJ: EDITORIAL IN IRISH INDEPENDENT APRIL 28, 1977

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT ON
APRIL 28, 1977 UNDER HEADING SOVIET WARNING:

THE SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN ANOTHER WARNING TO THE WEST NOT
TO TRY TO BRING UP THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE
BELGRADE CONFERENCE WHICH, IN THIS COMING JUNE, WILL REVIEW
THE APPLICATION SO FAR OF THE TERMS OF THE HELSINKI PACT.
OTHERWISE, THE SOVIETS SAID THROUGH A TASS STATEMENT, THERE
MIGHT BE RESULTS WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF
DETENTE.

THIS PIECE OF HYPOCRITICAL BLACKMAIL BY MOSCOW OUGHT TO BE
RESISTED BY THOSE POWERS WHICH WILL ATTEND THE BELGRADE
MEETING. IF IT IS NOT THEN THE ENTIRE WORK OF THE HELSINKI
PACT STANDS USELESS AND IMPOTENT; THE RUSSIANS MUST NOT BE
ALLOWED TO GET AWAY WITH THEIR ELPOT ARGUEMENT THAT
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE SAFE AND THAT
THE HELSINKI PACT DOES NOT GIVE THE WEST THE RIGHT TO
COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT.

THE MASS EXODUS OF JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION DURING PAST FEW YEARS
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SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE SOVIETS

HUMAN RIGHTS OF SOVIET CITIZENS; THE ATTEMPTS BY SOVIETS OF VARIOUS
ETHNIC GROUPS TO GET
PERMISSION TO LEAVE (AND THE FATE THAT HAS MET SOME
OF THESE APPLICANTS IN PRISON CAMPS), AND THE INSIDIOUS
PRESSURE EXERTED ON RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS - THESE ARE JUST

SOME OF THE SIGNS WHICH TELL ANY DOUBTERS THAT SOVIET RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS, WHEN IT TOUCHES ON POLITICAL MATTERS, MINIMAL.

AND SINCE THE WESTERN COUNTRIES SIGNED THE HELSINKI PACT ALONG WITH THE RUSSIANS IT IS PATENTLY OBVIOUS THAT THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW IF ONE PART OF THE PACT IS BEING OBSERVED BY THE SOVIETS; IF THE FACTS SHOW THAT THAT PART IS NOT GETTING THE RESPECT IT DESERVES THEN THE REST OF THE AGREEMENT MUST BE CALLED INTO QUESTION. UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE SOME POLITICIANS AND DIPLOMATS WHO SILL AGREE WITH THE SOVIETS IN TRYING TO KEEP HUMAN RIGHTS OFF THE BELGRADE AGENDA. BY DOING SO THEY ARE BUTTRESSING THE SOVIET ATTITUDE OF SELECTIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE HELSINKI PACT. IN THAT EVENT THE PACT BECOMES VOID AND NULL, AND THE WORK DONE IN HELSINKI WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

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